THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Convention discussed the various problems facing the handloom sector, such as, fluctuation in yarn prices, availability of inputs, problems of marketing and credit, competition from powerloom and mill sectors, etc.

(b) As a follow up and as part of the action plans, a meeting of State Ministers of Handlooms was convened and the State Governments have been urged to take immediate steps for effective implementation of the provisions of the Handloom Reservation Act and the orders issued thereunder to provide relief to the handloom sector from the unequal competition of the mills and powerlooms. Coverage of handloom weavers under the schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development has also been taken up as an action point with a view to providing looms, work-sheds, etc., to the handloom weavers. A "Health Package Scheme" has also been introduced by the Ministry to provide health coverage to handloom weavers, alongwith a sheme to set up dyeing units to improve the quality of dyeing.

Development Schemes for Handlom Weavers

2429. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch 100 area-based project for concentrated development of handloom weavers during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to cover 100 villages under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Project Package Scheme, the State Governments are required to formulate comprehensive need based projects having one or more of the following objectives namely, benefit a particular area, benefit a particular target group or develop a particular product.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme, villages having concentraion of skilled handloom weavers but poor in infrastructure would be assisted for a comprehensive package of benefits related to handloom weaving as such and also to improve their quality of life.

रेशमी धागे का आयात

2430. **श्री राम नरेश यादव** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान कितनी मात्रा में रेशमी धागे का आयात किया गया;

(ख) वर्ष 1993–94 के दौरान इसकी मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुये कितनी मात्रा में रेशमी धागे का आयात किये जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) इसकी मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुये इसके घरेलू उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी : (क) और (ख)

रेशम का उत्पादन करने वाले प्रमुख राज्यों में पेब्रिन रोग के प्रकोप तथा उसके फलस्वरूप देश में रेशम की कीमतों में वृद्धि होने को ध्यान में रखते हुये केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड ने कीमत को स्थिर रखने के उद्देश्य से वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान 46.26 मी० टन कच्चे रेशम का आयात किया था । इस समय वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान कच्चे रेशम का आयात करने का कोई भी प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं हैं ।

(ग) देश में रेशम का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड अनुसंधान, विस्तार तथा प्रशिक्षण एककों के अपने देश व्यापी नेटवर्क के जरिये आवश्यक सहायता प्रदान करके विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों के प्रयासों को अनुपूरित कर रहा है । इसके अतिरिक्त केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड किसानों को रेशम उत्पादन शुरू करने के लिये प्रोत्साहन देने के लिये अनेक सहायता कार्यक्रम योजनायें भी क्रियान्वित कर रहा है ।

Schemes for Development of Wool in the country

2431. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement various schemes for improvement of wool during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the details of the allocations made by Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Wool Development Board have made any achievements during the past few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the details of future programmes of the Board for its expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Textiles and Department of Animal Husbandry in the Ministry of Agriculture are implementing Wool Improvement Schemes, such as, Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project, Machine Shearing-cum-Training Centres, Scouring and Carbonising Plan Scheme, Schemes for Central Sheep and Goat Development Organisation, National Ram/Buck Production programmes.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 41 crores has been made for these two Ministries in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(d) During the last three years the wool Development Board has been conducting promotional activities such as National Workshops, Seminars for improvement in the quality of wool. It has also undertaken Pilot Project since 1991-92 i.e. Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project, which covers 35,000 animals and provides demonstration for ideal methods of dosing, dusting, treatment, product development etc. A study on the production of wool has been commissioned.

(e) During the year 1993-94, it is proposed to undertake Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Programme, weaving and designing centre, Pilot Project on Machine Shearing etc.

चीन से रेशम का आयात

2432. **श्री सोम पाल** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चीन से भारी मात्रा में रेशम का आयात किया जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस आयात के क्या कारण हैं ; और